Application/Control Number: 09/689,428

Art Unit: 2662

Appendix A

23. (Presently Amended) A communications system providing a seamless switch from initially receiving data over a unicast session to receiving said data over a plurality of synchronized multicast sessions, said communications system comprising:

an electronic device configured to receive said data over said unicast session, said elient electronic device responsive to a signal

to join said plurality of multicast sessions, said electronic device identifying as a joinable multicast session one of said plurality of multicast sessions currently not transmitting said data and which will not be transmitting for at least a sufficiently long time, said electronic device joining said joinable multicast session, said electronic device joining the remaining of said plurality of multicast sessions when said electronic device starts receiving said data over said joinable multicast session, wherein said sufficiently long time is longer than the sum of the time required for said elient electronic device to join said joinable multicast session and the time required for said elient electronic device to request a server to stop transmitting said data over said unicast session at the next multicast synchronize point; and to transmit a request to stop transmitting said data over said unicast session at a next multicast synchronize point.

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And please amend Claim 56 as follows:

56. (Presently Amended) A method of transmitting a multi-session data stream transmitted from a data source to a data receiver comprising:

transmitting first data over a first session including first data;

transmitting second data substantially representing first portions of said first data at even multicast synchronize points over a first multicast session;

-a first multicast session including second data-substantially representing first portions of said first data, said first multicast session transitioning to transmit no data at odd multicast synchronize points and transitioning to transmit said second data at even multicast synchronize points;

transmitting third data substantially representing portions of said first data not represented by said second data at odd synchronize points over a second multicast session; and

a second multicast session including third data substantially representing portions of said first data not represented by said second data, said second multicast session transitioning to transmit said third data at odd multicast synchronize points and transitioning to transmit no data at even multicast synchronize points; and

transmitting multicast sequencing data representing durations between multicast synchronize points, at least half of said durations sufficient for said receiver to join said first multicast session or said second multicast session and also sufficient for said receiver to send a stop request resulting in said first session stopping transmitting said first data.

multicast sequencing data representing durations between multicast synchronize points, at least half of said durations sufficient for said-receiver to join said first multicast session or said second-multicast session and also sufficient for said receiver to send a stop request causing said first session to stop transmitting said first data.

And please amend Claim 58 as follows:

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58. (Presently Amended) A communications system providing a seamless switch from initially receiving data over a unicast session to receiving said data over a plurality of synchronized multicast sessions, said communications system comprising:

an electronic device configured to receive said data over said unicast session, said electronic device responsive to a signal

to join said plurality of multicast sessions, said electronic device identifying as a joinable multicast session one of said plurality of multicast sessions currently not transmitting said data and which will not be transmitting for at least a sufficiently long time, said electronic device joining said joinable multicast session, said electronic device joining the remaining of said plurality of multicast sessions when said electronic device starts receiving said data over said joinable multicast session; and

to transmit a request to stop transmitting said data over said unicast session at a next multicast synchronize point,

wherein said sufficiently long time is longer than the sum of the time required for said electronic device to join said joinable multicast session and the time required for said electronic device to request a server to stop transmitting said data over said unicast session at the next multicast synchronize point; and

wherein said electronic device is further responsive to a signal to unsubscribe from said unicast session once said elient electronic device starts receiving said data over said joinable multicast session.

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